Conference on rural drinking water

*499. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conference of Minister in-charge of Rural Drinking Water was held during January-February, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations of the conference;

(c) whether it recommended for a separate Communication and Capacity Development Unit for sanitation and water supply in those States where two separate departments are handling these subjects;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Gujarat Government has sent a proposal for establishing CCDU for drinking water supply in that State; and

(f) if so, when and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) A Conference of State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water supply and sanitation was held on 31st January—1st February, 2006 in New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and its was attended by State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water and sanitation and officers of central and State Governments.

In the said conference, three working groups were formed to discuss (1) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) Implementation and Policy Issues, (2) Implementation of ARWSP in the Eleventh Plan for institutionalization of community participation, and (3) Coverage and its norms, technology options, source and system sustainability, water quality monitoring and surveillance. The following major recommendations were made in the Conference after detailed deliberation:

(1) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) Implementation and Policy Issues:

- Increase in unit cost of household and Anganwadi toilets and inclusion of solid and liquid waste management in the project.
- Removing community contribution from construction of school and Anganwadi toilets.
- A national and state level mass media campaign should be launched on Television and Radio for creation of awareness.
- Population slabs for awarding Nirmal Gram Puraskar should be increased.

- There should be separate CCDU for sanitation and water supply in those States where two separate Departments are handling these subjects.

(2) Implementation of ARWSP in the Eleventh Plan for institutionalization of community participation:

- Institutionalization of community participation and involvement of Gram Panchayats in a phased manner and only one rural water supply scheme from the Eleventh Plan.
- Community contribution of at least 10% of the estimated capital cost of the scheme to be an integral part of all rural drinking water supply schemes. It may be only 2.5% for SC/ST habitations. The extent of community contribution could be paid in cash, labour, land or material or a combination of these. The minimum contribution per household to be decided by the State. In difficult single village schemes, quality affected habitations, piped water supply from distant sources and multi-village schemes, the State may decide on quantum of community contribution for common facilities.
- Central and State Governments will bear the balance capital cost of approved schemes (after deducting the community contribution). In case of difficult single village schemes and muti-village schemes, Government agency will bring water from the source to the entry point of the village. The capital cost of schemes upto the entry point of habitation will be shared by Central and State Government. The distribution network of water supply inside the village/habitation will be constructed with involvement of the Gram Panchayat/Village Water and Sanitation Committees, with community contribution and subsequent Operation & Maintenance. They will be assisted by PHED in the process.

(3) Coverage and its norms, technology options, source and system sustainability, water quality monitoring and surveillance:

- The distance of the water source should be 0.5 kilometre instead of 1.6 kilometre and 30 metres elevation instead of 100 metres in hilly areas to lessen the drudgery of carrying water from distant source.
- In hilly areas, the population criteria should be relaxed to cover habitations with 50 persons or more or more that 10 households to all.

- There is need for earmarking funds for rooftop/catchment based rainwater harvesting and this water may be treated as coverage as distinguished from recharging of ground water.
- Women and youth of rural areas be trained to operate and maintain water supply systems. Manuals/guidelines be developed for this purpose.
- Distribution systems be improved for minimizing the leakages. States should come up with means to prevent leakages in the distribution systems to make it economical with cost recovery.
- Good production centres/sanitary marts/self-help groups, etc. should be utilized for supply of spare parts, training of local rural youth and women as mechanics for Operation & Maintenance of water sources and also involved in water quality monitoring and maintenance.
- Some of the States have requested for the funding pattern of ARWSP between Center and State to be in the ratio of 75:25 and North Eastern States have requested for this ratio to be 90:10 for consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) A proposal for financial assistance to set up Communication and Capacity Development Unit (CCDU) for Implementation of TSC project in the State of Gujarat was received during August, 2004. An amount of Rs. 185.00 lakh has been allocated and released to the State Government in June, 2005 for setting up of CCDU in Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector. A proposal for establishing separate CCDU for drinking water supply in the State has been received and is being processed.

Implementation of NREGA in Punjab and Haryana

†*500. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) in how many States the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been implemented by the Central Government, giving the district-wise details of every State; and

(b) the number of people belonging to Haryana and Punjab who have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.